Appendix I.

[Vide answer to the starred question No. 511 asked by Sri A. Vedarathnam at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 2nd March 1961, page 11 supra.]

A.—(i) and (ii) Yes, Sir. Soil conservation programme is in operation in eight out of the twelve districts in this State viz., The Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Salem, South Arcot, Chingleput, North Arcot, Tiruchirappalli and Madurai.

Its details and the assistance accorded for such works are furnished below :—

The soil conservation programme in this State was first formulated in 1952 after a series of experiments conducted at Hagari and Nanjanad. This programme aims at the prevention of soil erosion in eroded areas and also at indirectly conserving the moisture in the soil, which attributes to its fertility. The various measures that are adopted are contour bunding, gully plugging, construction of check dams and waste weirs in the plain areas and bench terracing work in the hilly areas. The average cost of these measures in the plains is Rs. 50 per acre, while the work in the hilly areas involve an expenditure of Rs. 350 to Rs. 400 per acre.

2. During the first Plan period, the programme was in operation in the districts of the Nilgiris and Coimbatore only and a sum of Rs. 12·23 lakhs was spent covering an area of nearly 17,130 acres. By experience gained in the programme during the first-Plan and also on account of the co-operation offered by the public, taking into consideration the advantages of the programme, it has been possible to make substantial progress during the Second-plan period. Out of a sum of Rs. 100·20 lakhs provided for the programme for this period, a sum of nearly Rs. 66 lakhs has been spent up to 30th June 1960 and an area of nearly 94,300 acres has been covered against the target of 100,900 acres. This year being the last year of the programme, it is proposed to complete the target fixed for the Second Five-year Plan by the end of March 1961. A sum of Rs. 233 lakhs has been provided for the Third-plan period and the physical target fixed is above 20 lakhs acres.

3. In addition to the developmental activities referred to in paragraph 2 above, several research and training schemes are also contemplated under the programme, the most important of which is the dry farming measures to be adopted in combination with contour bunding works, which is expected to increase yield by about 50 per cent. The other projects are survey and soil conservation work in river valley catchments, reclamation of saline and alkaline lands, checking of sand dunes spreading on to agricultural lands and similar other works, which are necessary to check soil erosion.

2nd March 1961]

4. The soil conservation work is at present executed by obtaining agreements from the cultivators and the expenditure on the works is initially met by the State Government. The Government of India are paying a grant of 12½ per cent of the cost of soil conservation work and work-charged establishment and 50 per cent of the cost of afforestation, while the State Government also contribute a similar share of expenditure. In addition, the State Government bears 90 per cent of the cost of the machinery and tools used for the scheme, which is on indirect subsidy paid to the ryots for the execution of soil conservation works. It may thus be seen that the ryot pays only 75 per cent of the cost of the soil conservation work and work charged staff, the entire cost of non-work-charged staff and contingencies and 10 per cent of the cost of machinery used in the schemes. Even this share of the ryot is recovered from him only in 20 equated annual instalments commencing after two years from the date of completion of the work.

The Madras Land Improvement Schemes Act, 1959, which contemplates execution of soil conservation work in the State by legislative measures has since been brought into force and it is hoped that under this Act the entire extent of waste lands in this State will be brought under cultivation by adopting the required measures under the soil conservation programme.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to the starred question No. 519 asked by Sri K. Vinayakam at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 2nd March 1961, on page 19 supra.]

Statement showing the division-war particulars of number of fair price shops for rice functioning in Madras City.

Division number.	Number of shops.	Division number.	Number of shops.	Division number.	Number of shop s.
1	1	15	Nil.	29	Nil
2	1	16	1	30	2
3	1	17	1	31	1
4	1	18	1	32	2
5	1	19	1	33	1
6	1	20	1	34	1
7	1	21	Nil.	35	1
8	2	22	1	36	I
9	1	23	1	37	1
10	1	24	Nil.	38	1
11	1	25	1	39	1
12	Nil.	26	1	40	1
13	1	27	1	41	Nil.
14	Nil.	28	Nil.	42	1